AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A bicycle sprocket adapted to rotate around a rotational axis, wherein the sprocket comprises:

a sprocket body having a first side wall surface that faces in a direction along the rotational axis, a second side wall surface that faces in an opposite direction along the rotational axis, and a radially inner surface that faces radially inwardly and is disposed between the first side wall surface and the second side wall surface when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis;

a plurality of teeth extending radially outwardly from the sprocket body and dimensioned to engage a bicycle chain;

a radially inwardly extending spline in the form of a projection disposed between the first side wall surface of the sprocket body and the second side wall surface of the sprocket body when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis;

a radially outwardly extending spline in the form of a slot disposed between the first side wall surface of the sprocket body and the second side wall surface of the sprocket body when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis;

wherein the radially outwardly extending spline is disposed circumferentially adjacent to the radially inwardly extending spline;

wherein the radially inwardly extending spline has a free end portion that extends in the direction of the rotational axis and is disposed between the first side wall surface of the sprocket body and the second side wall surface of the sprocket body when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis;

wherein a radially outer surface is formed on the free end portion of the radially inwardly extending spline;

wherein the radially outer surface is disposed between the first side wall surface of the sprocket body and the second side wall surface of the sprocket body when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis;

wherein the radially outer surface is discontinuous in the circumferential direction; and

wherein the radially outer surface formed on the free end portion of the radially inwardly extending spline faces radially outwardly and faces the radially inner surface of the sprocket body.

CLAIM 2 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 3 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the radially inner surface of the sprocket body is substantially straight in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 4 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the radially inner surface of the sprocket body is substantially parallel to the rotational axis.

CLAIM 5 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the sprocket body includes a first side wall portion and a second side wall portion, wherein the plurality of teeth extend radially outwardly from the first side wall portion, and wherein the second side wall portion is laterally offset from the first side wall portion.

CLAIM 6 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 5 wherein the second side wall portion overlaps the radially outer surface formed on the free end portion of the radially inwardly extending spline when viewed in a direction parallel to the rotational axis.

CLAIM 7 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 6 wherein the second side wall portion is offset from the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 8 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 6 wherein the radially inwardly extending spline is offset from the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 9 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 5 wherein the radially inwardly extending spline extends from the second side wall portion, and wherein the free end portion of the radially inwardly extending spline is offset from the first side wall surface in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 10 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the sprocket body has a side wall that includes a first side wall portion and a second side wall portion, wherein the plurality of teeth extend radially outwardly from the first side wall portion, and wherein

the second side wall portion and the radially inwardly extending spline together form a composite spline.

CLAIM 11 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 10 wherein a thickness of the radially inwardly extending spline in a direction of the rotational axis is greater than a thickness of the second side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 12 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 11 wherein a thickness of the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis substantially equals a thickness of the second side wall portion in the direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 13 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A bicycle sprocket adapted to rotate around a rotational axis, wherein the sprocket comprises:

a sprocket body;

a plurality of teeth extending radially outwardly from the sprocket body and dimensioned to engage a bicycle chain;

a radially inwardly extending spline in the form of a projection extending radially inwardly from the sprocket body, wherein the radially inwardly extending spline has a root portion and a radially inner portion, wherein the root portion extends radially inwardly of the sprocket body and has a side wall facing in a ~~rotational~~ direction of operating rotation of the sprocket body, and wherein the radially inner portion extends radially inwardly of the root portion and has a side wall facing in the ~~rotational~~ direction of operating rotation of the sprocket body;

wherein the root portion of the radially inwardly extending spline originates from and extends radially inwardly from an innermost peripheral surface of the sprocket body that forms ~~an~~ a circumferentially adjacent radially outwardly extending spline in the form of a slot, wherein the radially inwardly extending spline terminates in a radially inwardly facing free end; and

wherein a thickness of the radially inner portion of the radially inwardly extending spline in a direction parallel to the rotational axis is greater than a thickness of the root portion of the radially inwardly extending spline in a direction ~~of~~ parallel to the rotational axis.

CLAIM 14 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim 13 wherein the sprocket body has a side wall that includes a first side wall portion, wherein the plurality of teeth extend radially outwardly from the first side wall portion, wherein a thickness of the first side wall portion in a direction ~~of~~ parallel to the rotational axis substantially equals a thickness of the root portion of the radially inwardly extending spline in a direction ~~of~~ parallel to the rotational axis.

CLAIM 15 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 16 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the plurality of teeth are formed as one-piece with and extend radially outwardly from the sprocket body.

CLAIM 17 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 18 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 13 wherein the plurality of teeth are formed as one-piece with and extend radially outwardly from the sprocket body.

CLAIM 19 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the radially outer surface terminates circumferentially at the radially outwardly extending spline.

CLAIM 20 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the entire root portion of the spline terminates circumferentially at the radially outwardly extending spline.